

REMARKS

Claims 5-13, 15-25, 27-37 and 39-40 were presented for examination and are still pending in this application. In an Advisory Action dated January 23, 2004, claims 5-13, 15-25, 27-37 and 39-40 were rejected. Applicants thank Examiner for examination of the claims and the subsequent interview. Applicants now request reconsideration in light of the below remarks and allowance of claims 5-13, 15-25, 27-37 and 39-40.

During the interview, Applicant's representative argued that U.S. Patent No. 6,408,391 issued to Huff et al. ("Huff") fails to disclose either a vulnerability detection system or an intrusion detection system operating based on information collected by the vulnerability detection system as currently recited in claims 5, 17, and 29. Agreement was reached that, as amended, Huff fails to disclose an intrusion detection system cooperative with a VDS. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5, 17, and 29, as well as the related dependent claims are patentable over Huff.

CONCLUSION

In sum, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-13, 15-25, 27-37 and 39-40, as presented herein, are patentably distinguishable over Huff and/or the other cited references. Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

In addition, Applicant respectfully invites Examiner to contact Applicant's representative at the number provided below if Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
JOHN S. FLOWERS ET AL.

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By: 

Dorian Cartwright, Attorney of Record
Registration No. 53,853
FENWICK & WEST LLP
Silicon Valley Center
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Phone: (650) 335-7247
Fax: (650) 938-5200

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